

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 GABORO 00830 270559Z
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
-----002530 270604Z /15

O 230712Z MAR 78
FM AMEMBASSY GABORONE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1860
AMEMBASSY LUSAKA IMMEDIATE
INFO AMEMBASSY DARESSALAAM IMMEDIATE
AMCONSUL CAPETOWN IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY MAPUTO IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY MBABANE IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA IMMEDIATE
USMISSION USUN IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L GABORONE 0830

EXDIS

CAPE TOWN FOR EMBASSY

LUSAKA FOR AMBASSADOR YOUNG

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PDEV, RH, BC
SUBJECT: RHODESIA: PRESIDENT KHAMA'S INITIATIVE FOR ALL PARTIES
CONFERENCE

REF: (A) MBABANE 956, (B) GABORONE 767

1. FOLLOWING ARE AMBASSADOR NORLAND'S COMMENTS ON REF B,
TRANSMITTED FROM MBABANE BY REF A:

QUOTE

A. THE INITIATIVE TAKEN BY PRESIDENT KHAMA TO TRY TO
ARRANGE A CONFERENCE OF FRONTLINE PRESIDENTS AND NATIONALISTS
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 GABORO 00830 270559Z

IS A MEASURE OF GOB CONCERN AT THE PROSPECT OF DELAY AND/OR
IMMOBILITY OF UK. IT CLEARLY PROCEEDS FROM ASSUMPTION THAT
SALISBURY AGREEMENT DOES NOT HOLD OUT PROSPECT EITHER OF
A DURABLE SOLUTION OR PROMISING BASIS FOR DISCUSSION.

B. IN VIEW OF PRESIDENT KHAMA'S WELL-KNOWN REALISM
AND CUSTOMARY GOB RETICENCE, ONE CAN BE CONFIDENT THIS
INITIATIVE WOULD NOT HAVE BEEN UNDERTAKEN NOW UNLESS IT

WAS FELT THE SERIOUSNESS OF SITUATION DEMANDED IT. BY MOVING AT THIS TIME, PRESIDENT KHAMA IS DRAWING HEAVILY ON THE GOOD WILL HE HAS BUILT UP OVER THE YEARS WITH BOTH MALTA AND SALISBURY GROUPS, I.E. GOB HAS ASSISTED NKOMO AND TO A LESSER EXTENT MUGABE BY TRANSPORTING AZPU AND ZANU RECRUITS TO ZAMBIA; IN CASE OF SALISBURY GROUP, GOB HAS ACCORDED PRO-MUZOREWA REFUGEES FAIR AND EQUITABLE TREATMENT WHILE MAINTAINING DIALOGUE WITH THEIR ANC LEADERS. DESPITE SHOCK AND REVULSION AT RHODESIAN ATTACK OF FEBRUARY 27 AT KAZUNGULA, GOB HAS THUS FAR LIMITED DENUNCIATION OF SALISBURY AGREEMENT TO UNSC DEBATE.

C. TO ACQUIESCE IN AN IMPASSE WOULD LEAVE GOB CAUGHT BETWEEN THE CONTENDING PARTIES, WITH NO PROSPECT OF AN END TO GUERRILLA ACTIVITY. BECAUSE IT HAS REMAINED ON GOOD TERMS WITH BOTH SIDES, GOB IS SENSITIVE TO ATTITUDES AND INTERACTION OF PERSONALITIES. GOB RECORD OF COMMON SENSE AND MODERATION AS WELL AS ITS KNOWN SECURITY CONCERNS DERIVING FROM THE LONG COMMON BORDER WITH RHODESIA SHOULD ENABLE IT TO MOBILIZE BOTH SYMPATHY AND SUPPORT.

D. FROM OUR POINT OF VIEW, THERE IS EVERY REASON TO TRUST GOB AND ITS LOYALTY TO THE PRINCIPLES OUTLINED IN THE AAP. WHILE REFTTEL RIGHTLY SUGGESTS THAT WE WITHHOLD COMMENT AT THIS TIME, IT WOULD SEEM APPROPRIATE THAT DEPARTMENT ADVISE MISSIONS IN FRONTLINE COUNTRIES THAT, IF ASKED, WE BE AUTHORIZED TO SAY WE BELIEVE THE GOB INITIATIVE IS ENTIRELY CONSISTENT WITH, AND EXTENSION
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 GABORO 00830 270559Z

OF, EFFORTS UNDERTAKEN BY THE UK AND US EARLIER THIS MONTH TO ARRANGE AN ALL PARTIES CONFERENCE.
END QUOTE

2. COMMENT: GOB OFFICIALS HERE PROFESS TO BE VERY MUCH IN THE DARK CONCERNING SCHEDULE AND SUBSTANCE OF MOGWE'S CURRENT TRIP TO FRONTLINE CAPITOLS, ALTHOUGH THEY DO EXPECT HIM BACKIN GABORONE MARCH 23. WE NOTE FROM LUSAKA 932 AND STATE 73539 (NOTAL) THAT FRONTLINE PRESIDENTS PLAN TO MEET IN DAR EASTER WEEKEND. ASSUME THIS STIMULATED AT LEAST PARTLY BY BOTSWANA INITIATIVE.
ALBERTI

NOTE BY OC/T: TELEGRAM DELAYED IN TRANSMISSION.

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: POLITICAL SETTLEMENT, PLANNING MEETINGS, NATIONALISTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 23 mar 1978
Decaption Date: 20 Mar 2014
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978GABOR000830
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780132-0562
Format: TEL
From: GABORONE
Handling Restrictions:
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780333/aaaabbvp.tel
Line Count: 108
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 433b1fbf-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION SS
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: 78 MBABANE 956, 78 GABORONE 767
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 19 apr 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3229110
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: RHODESIA: PRESIDENT KHAMA'S INITIATIVE FOR ALL PARTIES CONFERENCE
TAGS: PDEV, RH, BC, UK, (KHAMA, SERETSE M)
To: STATE LUSAKA
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/433b1fbf-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014